

U.S. Virgin Islands

November 2009 Tourism Indicators

Bureau of Economic Research

February 2010

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Total visitors arrivals up by 2.4 percent in November 2009

The total visitor arrivals continued on an upward trend for the third consecutive month, posting a 2.4 percent increase in November over November last year. There were 208,202 visitors to the Territory in November 2009 compared to 203,304 in November of 2008. The number of air visitors grew by a strong 12.5 percent to 52,724 from 46,879 in November 2008. Cruise passenger arrivals, totaling 155,478, were essentially the same as last November 156,425 cruise passenger arrivals.

Arrivals by District

While the St. Thomas and St. John district experienced an 8.2 percent drop in cruise passenger arrivals in November, St. Croix continued to receive more cruise visitors than in the past six years. Cruise passenger arrivals in the St. Thomas and St. John district totaled 143,036 compared to 155,791 in November 2008. St. Croix cruise arrivals were 18,434 this November compared to 634 for last November. There were 59 cruise ship calls in the St. Thomas and St. John district and 8 cruise calls to the island of St. Croix this month.

Hotel Occupancy

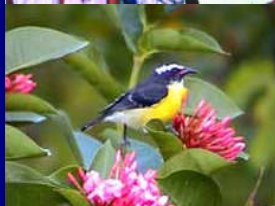
The Territory's reported hotel occupancy rate for November averaged 56.2 percent. The rate for St. Croix was 41.4 percent compared to 45.1 percent one year earlier. The rate for St. Thomas and St. John was 61.5 percent compared to 57.7 percent for November 2008. A total of \$535,158 was collected in hotel room revenues this November compared to \$580,205 in November 2008, a 7.8 percent decline in hotel room revenues.

Tourism Statistics January to November 2009

A total of 1,971,643 visitors arrived in the Territory during the first nine months of 2009, an 8.6 percent decline or 185,607 fewer visitors than in the corresponding period in 2008. Cruise passengers arrivals fell by 10.7 percent to 1,372,484 from 1,537,698 one year earlier. There were 599,159 air visitors or 3.3 percent less than the 619,552 air visitors for the same nine-month period in 2008. There were 533 cruise ship calls during this period or 10.0 percent fewer calls than last year.

The hotel occupancy rate average 55.1 percent for the nine months of this year, about 5.1 percentage points lower than the corresponding period in 2008. Occupied room nights were 879,915 compared to 985,265 in 2008.

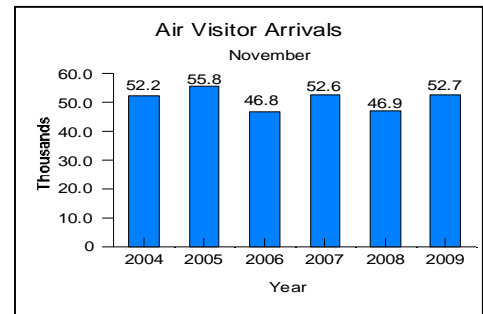
There were 788,281 registered hotel guests during this nine-month period. Guest registrations from the United States, which accounted for 83.5 percent of total hotel guest, increased by 8.7 percent over the same period in 2008. Virgin Islands residents staying at local hotels increased 4.9 percent, while Puerto Rico residents declined by 7.5 percent. Guests from Europe increased 3.2 percent. Visitors from Central and South America drop to 11.7 percent and 15.5 percent respectively, and Other West Indies grew a strong 41.2 percent and guests from Canada increased by 19.9 percent.



Tourism Statistics for November 2009

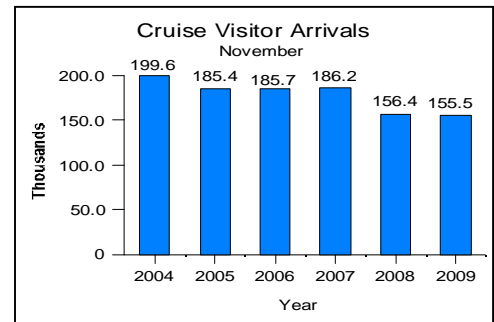
PASSENGER ARRIVALS

				09 CY	08 CY	% Ch.
	Nov 09	Oct 09	Nov 08	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	09/08
Air Visitors	52,724	39,108	46,879	599,160	619,553	-3.3
St. Thomas and St. John	40,359	29,309	37,318	481,244	509,461	-5.5
St. Croix	12,365	9,799	9,561	117,915	110,091	7.1
Cruise Ship Visitors	155,478	98,305	156,425	1,372,484	1,537,698	-10.7
St. Thomas and St. John	143,036	84,109	155,791	1,307,017	1,535,188	-14.9
St. Croix	18,434	14,196	18,434	84,676	2,510	-
Cruise Ship Calls	61	34	61	533	592	-10.0
St. Thomas and St. John	59	29	60	510	590	-13.6
St. Croix	8	5	1	37	1	-



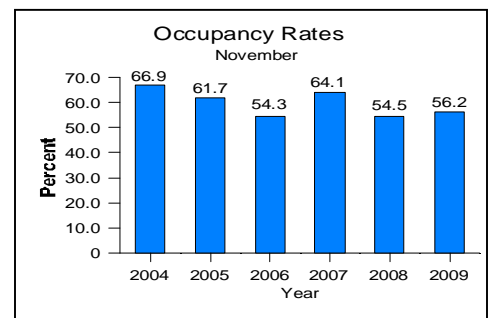
HOTEL REGISTRATION

				09 CY	08 CY	% Ch.
	Nov 09	Oct 09	Nov 08	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	09/08
Total	66,390	58,720	60,538	788,281	729,333	8.1
Residents	5,716	6,318	6,499	73,102	69,704	4.9
Non Residents	60,674	52,402	54,039	715,179	659,629	8.4
United States	55,431	47,118	49,450	658,516	606,071	8.7
Puerto Rico	1,671	2,135	1,785	17,918	19,367	-7.5
Other West Indies	876	1,191	592	9,563	6,774	41.2
Canada	808	647	657	9,318	7,770	19.9
Europe	1,649	1,040	1,622	15,085	14,611	3.2
Central America	27	28	27	460	521	-11.7
South America	39	106	35	859	1,016	-15.5
Other Areas	174	138	282	3,461	3,500	-1.1
Average Stay (nights)	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	-4.7



HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

				09 CY	08 CY	% Ch.
	Nov 09	Oct 09	Nov 08	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	09/08
Total Tourist Rooms Available	4,930	4,930	4,856	4,904	4,853	1.1
Occupied Room Nights	77,364	64,754	80,584	879,915	985,265	-10.7
Available Room Nights	137,550	144,739	147,938	1,595,962	1,635,961	-2.4
Occupancy Rate (%)	56.2	44.7	54.5	55.1	60.2	-
St. Thomas and St. John	61.5	48.7	57.5	61.1	64.7	-
St. Croix	41.4	33.6	45.1	38.0	46.8	-



Note: CY = Calendar Year.

% Ch. 09/08 = year-to-date

Data subject to revision.

Tourism Indicators is a Bureau of Economic Research publication that compiles basic economic and statistical information from numerous sources. The table featured in this publication compares the reported month's data with figures from the preceding month and from the month of one year

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